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The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

Maine Farmer

Augusta, Oct. 19, 1872.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.
\$2.00 in advance, or \$2.50 if not paid within
Three Months of the date of subscription.

All payments made by subscribers will be ordered on the yellow slips attached to their papers. The printed date to connection with the subscriber's name will stand as the time when he has paid, and no subscriber in all cases will be valid receipt for monies remitted by him.

A subscriber desiring to change the post office direction of his paper must communicate to us the name of the office to which it has been previously addressed, we shall be unable to comply with his request.

Advertisers' Notices.

Mr. V. DARLING will visit Washington County in October.

Mr. S. AYER is now canvassing the county of Oxford.

Mr. J. S. SMALL is now canvassing Northern Penobscot and Aroostook Counties.

Mr. A. D. Foster of Lakeville, Cornwallis, is now engaged in canvassing and collecting in Nova Scotia, as agent for the MAINE FARMER.

The Cider Question.

Now that the State election is over and it is known who are to be our rulers for the next year, the discussion of the cider question is removed. We cannot believe that our orchardists have any great interest in this discussion, or that they care particularly what legislation may be had upon the subject. Indeed if all apple growers would have due regard to their true interest, as many of the more intelligent already do have, the cider question, which has so complicated the passage and enforcement of our prohibitory laws, would take care of itself without the intervention of law or legislation.

We have often been surprised at the great hate exhibited by many orchardists to dispose of their cider as soon as it comes from the mill, when there is no product of the farm that so increases in value with age as cider. In the fall of 1870 we bought a barrel of cider for three dollars and put it into a dry cellar with the bung open. There it lay a year, and on examining it, it proved to be good vinegar, and we sold it to a trader for ten dollars. Here was a net profit of more than three hundred per cent. Hundreds of barrels of cider were sold from the town that year at ten cents per gallon all of which would have sold readily in a year at thirty cents per gallon.

There is always a ready market for good cider vinegar, and if every gallon of cider made in this country should be converted into vinegar, the supply would not equal the demand. For want of pure cider vinegar, thousands of barrels of a villainous compound, injurious to health, are annually sold in the name of vinegar.

The commercial value of cider vinegar is such, that cider, if sold for what it is actually worth for conversion into vinegar is an expensive drink. New cider is but a trifling more nutritious than pure water, and except that it tickles the palate a little in passing over it, it is not so satisfactory a beverage as water.

The shrewd orchardist is always diminishing his crop of cider by grafting in those varieties which will always bear a good price in the market, and are worth more as apples than as cider. Many a good orchardist is still the cider master for themselves. Pure sweet cider is a harmless drink, though in the light in which we are considering the subject, it is an expensive one, and for those who can afford it, there can not be the least objection to its use.

But when cider passes through the fermentation, it becomes one of the strongest and most injurious of the fermented liquors, the best containing nearly ten per cent. of absolute alcohol. Among the vicious or pernicious liquors, are claret, porter, mead, cider, and the wines made from various kinds of fruit. Of these various kinds of vinous liquors, other things being the same, they are injurious to the human system, according to the amount of alcohol which they contain; and alcohol, whether in rum, brandy, whiskey, ale or cider, is always the same, and is a deadly poison. The best medical testimony of the world is all on one side of this subject, while common observation teaches that the habitual use of any of the vinous liquors has a tendency to induce gout, apoplexy and other diseases depending on plethora and over-stimulation.

We frequently hear the idea advanced that the general use of vinous liquors would be a preventive of drunkenness. The falsity of this theory has been so often proved, that it seems strange that we should continue to hear it. Medical writers have recently undertaken to overthrow and refute the arguments of Dr. Carpenter with regard to the effects of alcoholic stimulants upon the human system, but they have been miserable failures.

The motives which prompt one class of medical writers to recommend the use of vinous liquors, and another to discourage it, should be clearly kept in mind. The latter are laboring in the interests of humanity, and thereby maintaining the dignity of their profession, while the former have prostituted their knowledge to the interests of the nefarious traffic in liquors.

In all liquors, whether they be fermented or distilled, it is the alcohol that does the mischief. Therefore to legislate in favor of the one and against the other would be somewhat unwise. A person drunk on old cider which contains ten per cent. of alcohol, or on currant wine which contains twenty per cent., is as surely poisoned as he who gets drunk on proof whiskey which contains fifty per cent., and the poison works in precisely the same manner. The same may be said of strong beer which contains from six to twelve per cent., and porter which contains nearly as much. We are not discussing this question as a party standpoint, for we do not regard it as a party question, nor do we recognize the right of any political party to monopolize it. It has suffered too much at the hands of party. It is a question of vital interest to the entire people of the State and should be discussed with fairness and candor.

The legislation of last winter on the cider question was injurious, for the bill was so loosely drawn that there has been no trouble in evading it, and, at the same time, it has been odious to many, because it discriminated in favor of a class. We believe the prohibitory law should cover every species of intoxicating liquors, without regard to name or place of manufacture, and leave it for the courts to decide when vicious or fermented liquors are intoxicating.

The impartial enforcement of any prohibitory law is always attended with difficulty, but we believe an amendment such as we have indicated, to strike out all exceptions, would be as little objectionable as any, and would have the advantage of bearing alike upon all.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR. The following appointments have been made by the Governor:

To Sonnenschein Marriages.—Rev. Thomas Watson, Lowell; Rev. James H. Eob, Augusta; Rev. H. J. Durkee, Lewiston; Rev. Geo. M. Adams, Castine; Rev. Theodore Gerrish, Lewiston; Rev. James H. Madison, Portland; Rev. J. S. Dore, Lyndon.

PAGE'S SALES.—The vault of the National Insurance Co., at Bangor, was opened Monday and the records and papers were found unjured. There will be no interruption in the business of the Company.

CITY GOSSEL. The October term of the Supreme Judicial Court for Kennebec county, commenced Tuesday morning, Judge Daufour presiding. Albert T. Beale is foreman of the Grand Jury, Levi Jones, foreman of the first, and Francis Loring, foreman of the second traverse juries.—C. Allen, Esq., left for New York, Tuesday and will sail for Europe on Saturday, to be absent six months.—There was a beautiful display of the Northern Aurora Monday evening. The Bangor *Whig* thought it was a fine evening. The *Young Folks' Social Union*, Dramatic Company went to Togus on Tuesday, and put on the play entitled "Aunt Charlotte's Maid." That play in the highest terms of their courteous treatment by the officials at Togus.—One of our country's defenders named John McLean, who has been stopping at Togus, was in this city Monday, and desiring a ride, took a team on the street belonging to Mr. L. C. Durkee. The upshot was, the horses came back badly scoured, the wagon was found wrecked in Forest City Cemetery and the bold soldier boy is now in jail.—It is expected that two hundred workmen will be employed in Stacy's shoe shop.—The officers of Soldiers' Division, No. 5, of Togus were installed by Joshua N. Eby, Esq., Thursday; Charles R. Rice is W. P. and Frank Morgan, Secretary. The Lodge is now in a flourishing condition.—The evening campaign sheet published in this city succeeded publication last week.—The City Marshal made several successful raids on liquor dealers last week. Considerable quantities of the ardent were found and confiscated.—The provision markets of Hill and Dow and Emery and Whitehouse will be closed at 8 o'clock P. M. except Saturdays.—Hon. J. T. Woodward left this city Monday for his new place of business at Rochester, N. Y.—Prot. Wait of the Augusta Business College, is about to issue a revised and enlarged edition of his valuable work on Book-Dealing.

EDWIN BOOTH. Wednesday evening August 1 had the pleasure of welcoming to the city, for the first time, the great tragedian, Edwin Booth, and of witnessing his personation of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark. Granite Hall was well filled by our most intelligent citizens.

Many had heard him in other cities and were as a matter of course, while a still larger number were attracted by the reputation which he has won of being the most scholarly, refined and popular actor on the American Stage.

He is about to issue a revised and enlarged edition of his valuable work on Book-Dealing.

The display of apples, pears and grapes, was good, and could it be otherwise? The season has been very fruitful and long enough for even the latest fruits to ripen.

In the afternoon there was a trial of strength and discipline of oxen and steers. The load was readily pulled by all the yokes attached to it; but some cattle exhibited steeper pull and more quiet ways than others. In every instance they were well driven, the teamsters doing their work without noise and without gadding their animals.

Prof. Pratt, the horse-trainer was there attending considerable attention.

The receipts on the first day amounted to something over \$500. The second day passed much as the first. A large crowd was on the ground and the interest was undiminished.

Committees were busily at work, the stockmen being put up on the boards in an unexpected manner.

Mr. Booth will again visit Augusta, on Tuesday next of week. On Tuesday evening he will appear as Sir Edward Mortimer in "The Iron Chest," and on Wednesday evening he will personate Petruchio in Shakespeare's well known comedy entitled "Taming of a Shrew," or "Catherine and Petruchio."

The Pacific R. R. and SPEAKER BLAINE.—Gen. Thomas Ewing, a democrat in high standing, and counsel for the Pacific Railroad, having written to Speaker Blaine that his general knowledge of the affairs of the company enabled him to declare that Mr. Blaine was not in any manner employed by the company, nor was he entitled to any compensation for his services to the company.

The commercial value of cider vinegar is such, that new cider, if sold for what it is actually worth for conversion into vinegar is an expensive drink. New cider is but a trifling more nutritious than pure water, and except that it tickles the palate a little in passing over it, it is not so satisfactory a beverage as water.

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